



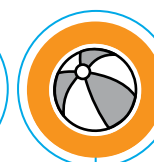
YOUR ADVENTURE IN  
**Galveston**

On this mellow island, Victorian architecture and storied resorts harmonize with buzzworthy new restaurants and family-friendly theme parks. Ready to discover why visitors are singing the praises of this Gulf of Mexico getaway?

BY AMANDA GLEASON

**BEGIN YOUR  
ADVENTURE HERE**

What's the first thing you want to find in Galveston?





## Adventure In Galveston

If your first mission in Galveston is to locate...



**GETTING THERE** Fly into William P. Hobby Airport in Houston, then rent a car for the drive to Galveston, about 50 miles southeast. [fly2houston.com](http://fly2houston.com)

**FULL HOUSE**  
At Moody Mansion, the furnishings are original to the family.

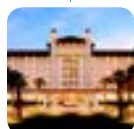


CONTINUE YOUR QUEST INTO THE CITY'S PAST WHEN YOU...

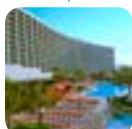
## Tour Fine Homes

In 1892, a Victorian castle was completed on Broadway Street in Galveston. Now dubbed Bishop's Palace, this elaborate home was built by premier architect Nicholas Clayton for Confederate soldier and Texas congressman Col. Walter Gresham and his family. As you stroll through the entrance hall, flanked by towering marble columns, imagine yourself as one of the hundreds of guests who once flocked to the extravagant New Year's Day parties held here. For more of the high life, amble down the street to Moody Mansion, a four-story, limestone-and-brick beauty where prominent philanthropist and entrepreneur William Lewis Moody Jr. and his brood used to hang their hats. You don't even have to leave your shoes at the door. [galvestonhistory.org](http://galvestonhistory.org), [moodymansion.org](http://moodymansion.org) Your adventure continues...

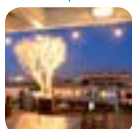
THEN YOUR MOST IDEAL HOTEL IS...



**Hotel Galvez & Spa**  
Howard Hughes and Frank Sinatra are among the past guests of this Spanish Mission-style resort, named after the city's famed founder, Bernardo de Gálvez.



**The San Luis Resort**  
Reserve a poolside cabana at this relaxing beachfront escape, where a waterslide, swim-up bar, and grotto-style hot tub make it easy to stay in your swimsuit all day long.



**The Tremont House**  
Drink in the downtown view at the hip rooftop bar atop this elegant spread. Prefer to stay grounded? Then park yourself at the Toujouse Bar for a honeydew martini.

How do you prefer to move through water?





THE BIG TIME  
Royal Caribbean's  
Navigator  
of the Seas has  
1,843 staterooms.



PUT YOURSELF IN CRUISE CONTROL WHEN YOU...

# Come Sail Away

Galveston's coastal setting makes it a great jumping-off point for jaunts in the Caribbean. Three cruise ships—Royal Caribbean's Navigator of the Seas and Carnival's Magic and Triumph—call this town their home port, and each offers a unique experience afloat. Completely overhauled in February, the Navigator now sports the industry's first virtual balconies, which give interior staterooms real-time ocean views via high-def screens stretching nearly floor to ceiling. Carnival's Magic, home to RedFrog Pub—a laid-back bar with its own private-label brew—puts partying patrons at ease. And if a weeklong journey just won't cut it, try this: Beginning in October 2015, the Triumph will offer 10- and 11-night getaways to San Juan. ¡Vamanos! [royalcaribbean.com](http://royalcaribbean.com), [carnival.com](http://carnival.com) Your adventure continues...

Continued

If you prefer to get around via a...



THEN MAKE A SPLASH AT...



### C-Sick Surfing

The city's oldest pro surf school offers beginner lessons taught by Brian Jarvis, who learned to ride the waves in Hawaii more than 50 years ago.



### Schlitterbahn Galveston

Twist along tube slides or brave this waterpark's tallest attraction, the Cliffhanger, which sends riders tumbling down an 81-foot drop.

### GETTING AROUND

Downtown is easily explored on foot. For venturing farther out, a rental car or the city's bus system, Island Transit, are your best bets. [islandtransit.net](http://islandtransit.net)

Which might be included in your ideal outing?



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL

## TEXAS' FIRST RESORT *for* COASTAL LUXURY

SWAYING PALMS GREET NEW ARRIVALS as waves gently break onto the beach across the boulevard. The soaring, sun-drenched lobby sets the table with a welcoming cocktail as gourmet cuisine and the coast's most luxurious spa beckon inside. These are but a few rewards that await the uncompromising guests of the Hotel Galvez & Spa, the essential beachfront resort on Galveston Island. Book your place in the sun online or by phone today.

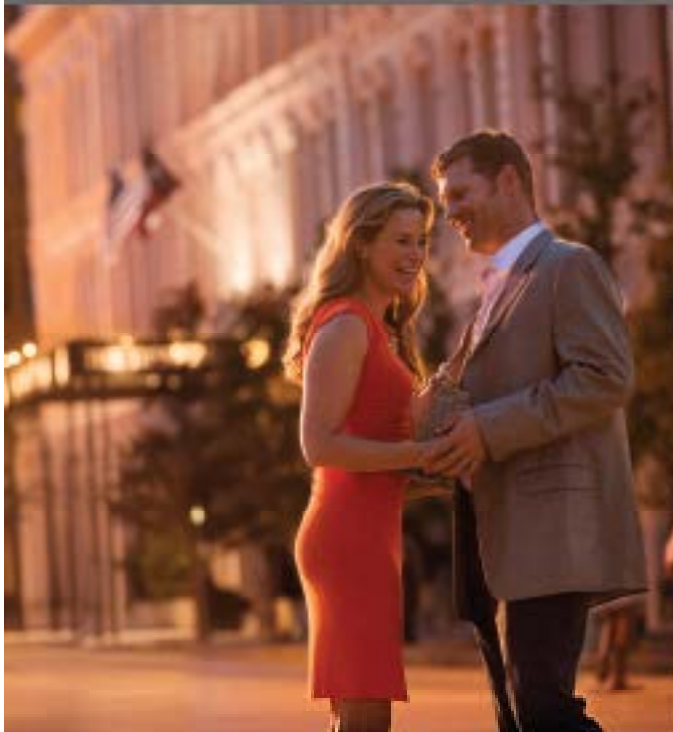


2024 SEAWALL BLVD, GALVESTON ISLAND, TX  
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 409.765.7721  
[www.WyndhamHotelGalvez.com](http://www.WyndhamHotelGalvez.com)



JOIN US, GALVEZ WEDDING VOW RENEWAL  
JUNE 7, 2014 • 10AM | NOW ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS

## where MYSTERY and ROMANCE *mingle*



THE PAGEANTRY AND RHYTHM of Galveston infuse The Tremont House with a special spirit. This is a vital, lively setting that attracts discerning travelers who prefer festivity with a dash of sophistication. From lobby to balcony to rooftop bar there is a palpable energy, and the anticipation of days and nights well spent in the Island's colorful port district. Discreetly unique, tastefully indulgent – The Tremont House is a hotel with stories to tell. Book online or by phone to add yours today.



THE TREMONT HOUSE  
A Wyndham Grand Hotel

2300 SHIP'S MECHANIC ROW, GALVESTON ISLAND, TX  
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 409.763.0300 OR VISIT  
[www.WyndhamTremontHouse.com](http://www.WyndhamTremontHouse.com)



Continued

If your favorite activities involve...



What makes your mouth water?



THEN SATISFY YOUR TASTE BUDS AT...



## Shrimp 'N Stuff

Locals swarm this casual eatery for its sweet coconut shrimp. Don't forget the honey-horse-radish sauce for your dipping delight.



## La King's Confectionary

Pay a visit to this old-fashioned sweets shop if you're seeking dark-chocolate pecans, root beer floats, saltwater taffy, and more than 30 flavors of ice cream.



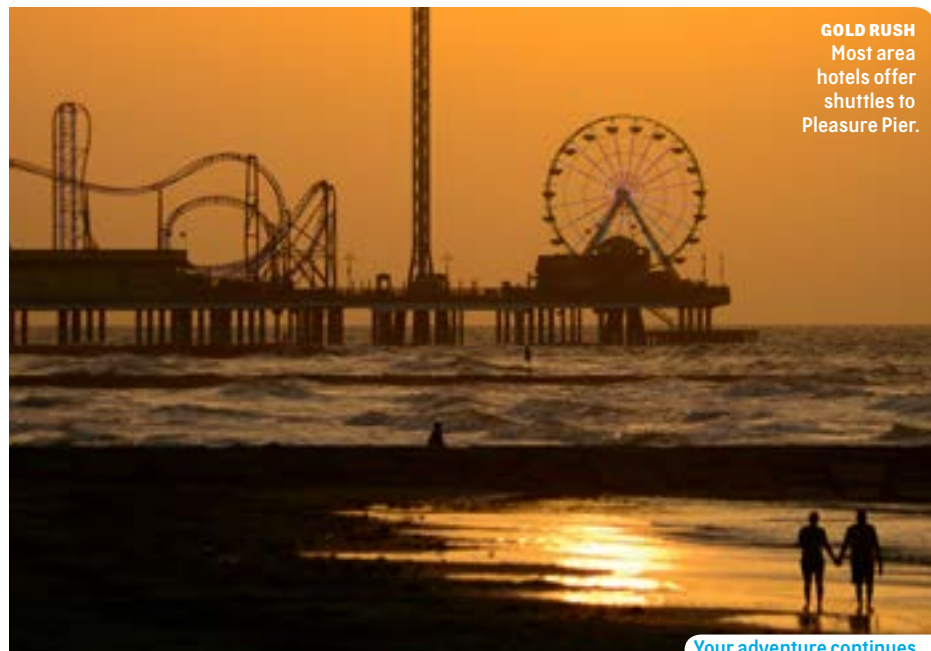
## Number 13

Serious about seafood? Sink your teeth into the grilled red snapper, served with carrot butter and sweet peas, at this new restaurant on Pelican Rest Marina.

THEN GET READY FOR A ROLICKING TIME AS YOU...

# Give It a Whirl

Now here's a spin on the typical amusement park: Build 16 rides on a platform that's more than 1,000 feet above the Gulf of Mexico. We're talking about Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier, a recently reincarnated amusement park that conjures up the heyday of waterfront hoopla in America—think of it as Coney Island on the Texas Coast. After the park's glory years faded in the mid-20th century, its rides and attractions were torn down to make space for an overwater hotel. But in May 2012, much of the Pier's original splendor was rebuilt. As you stroll the buzzing midway lined with roaring roller coasters and carnival games, let the smell of cotton candy, funnel cakes, and hot dogs transport you to a simpler time that once defined summertime fun in America. [pleasurepier.com](http://pleasurepier.com)



**GOLD RUSH**  
Most area hotels offer shuttles to Pleasure Pier.

## GETTING OUT

Moody Gardens' summer concert series draws music lovers every Friday and Saturday night throughout the summer. Bonus: Fireworks are included. [moodygardens.com](http://moodygardens.com)

Your adventure continues...

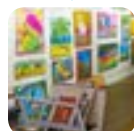


Continued Continued Continued

Which area  
of the arts  
entices you?



THEN CHECK OUT...



**The Heard Gallery**  
Land the perfect island souvenir—tropical-themed oil paintings of pelicans and palm trees—at this cozy shop.



**The Grand 1894 Opera House**  
This summer, the Texas Tenors (of *America's Got Talent* fame) are just one of the acts to take the stage at this ornate theater.



**Moody Gardens**  
Eager for more fun and games? Then head to this sprawling park for its zip line, aquarium, rainforest, 4-D theater, and paddle-wheel boat cruises.

## FOLLOW US

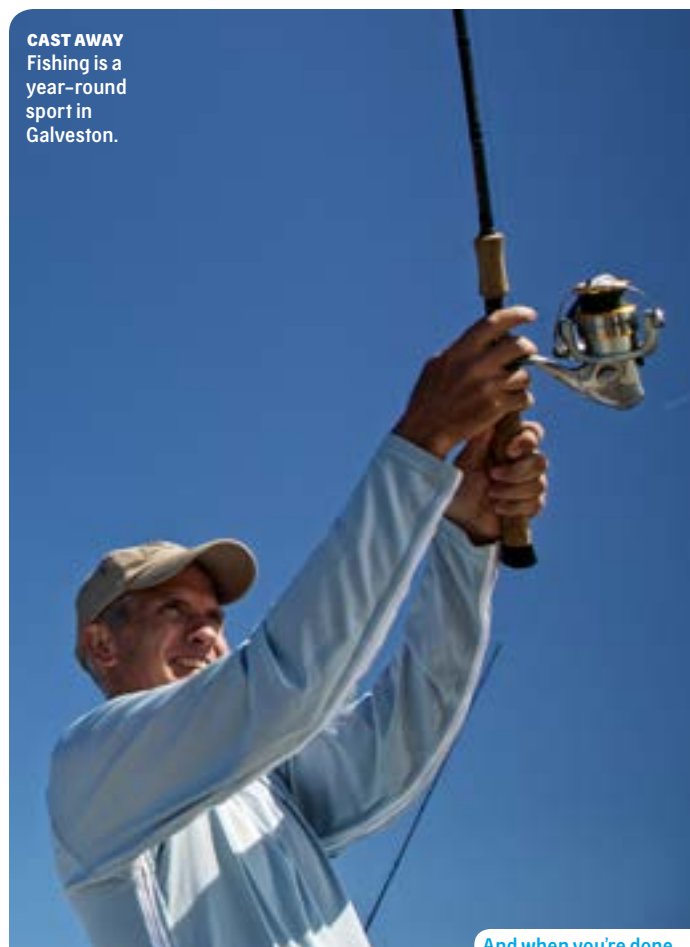
Follow *Spirit* editors on the road by connecting with us on Instagram @SpiritMagazine.

IF FISHING STRIKES YOUR FANCY...

## Reel One In

Sitting aboard a 40-foot boat some 90 miles offshore, gazing out at the vast ocean, you feel a sense of calm wash over you—that is, until you spot a slow-moving fin protruding from the water. “The thrill that fishermen get from catching sharks is addicting,” says captain Matt Garner of Fish-n-Divers, a family-owned company that offers a variety of deep-sea fishing charters for groups of up to six anglers. And while snagging one of these powerful animals is one of the main draws of embarking on a half- or full-day excursion, you won’t be disappointed by the abundant kingfish, wahoo, and trout that call these waters home. Just bring your fishing license (easily obtained in area stores)—and the beverage of your choice—and let the cap’n guide you onto the open water. That’s how we like to make waves. [fishndivers.com](http://fishndivers.com)

**CAST AWAY**  
Fishing is a year-round sport in Galveston.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JODY HORTON

And when you're done...

Just for the **FUN** of It...  
Summer at **The Grand!**

**THE GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE - GALVESTON ISLAND**

VICTOR LANG - *The Way It Was* Sat., June 7, 2014 - 4pm  
THE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA Sat., June 28, 2014 - 8pm  
THE TEXAS TENORS - *Let Freedom Sing!* Sun., July 6, 2014 - 4pm  
HOUSTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS Sun., July 20, 2014 - 4pm

**IS THERE LIFE AFTER LUBBOCK?**  
starring JASTON WILLIAMS, JOE ELY & KIMMIE RHODES  
Sat., July 26, 2014 - 8pm

**VICKI LAWRENCE & MAMA: A TWO WOMAN SHOW**  
Sat. August 9, 2014 - 8pm  
(Mature content, may not be suitable for all audiences)

**DR. JOHN & THE NITE TRIPPERS & AARON NEVILLE**  
Sat., August 23, 2014 - 8pm

Visit us online for complete performance schedule

All programming subject to change without notice.

**409.765.1894 | www.thegrand.com**

**The Grand**  
1894 OPERA HOUSE  
Galveston Island, Texas

**Experience LIFE**

The splendor surrounds you here in this little piece of paradise.

Enjoy close encounters with free-roaming Saki Monkeys, macaws and other animals and plants at the Rainforest Pyramid. Journey the oceans of the world and beyond at the Aquarium Pyramid, 3D, 4D and Ridefilm Theaters. Embark on a Colonel Paddlewheeler cruise or a new challenge at the Moody Gardens Golf Course. Then relax and rejuvenate amongst tropical gardens where a spectacular new ambience and inviting Spa await at the newly renovated hotel.

**Summer**

- New:** Gulf Coast's Tallest Steel Ropes Course and Zip Line!
- Through Sept. 28:** Real Pirates Exhibition by Premier Exhibitions and National Geographic
- Cool off poolside:** In a cabana or the swim-up bar
- Friday and Saturdays nights:** Bands on the Sand Concert Series with Fireworks
- Hotel Kids Crew Club:** Bounce house, face painting, crafts, karaoke, s'mores, movies and more!
- Palm Beach:** White sand beach, Lazy River, Wave Pool, Tower Slides and more!

**Holiday Season**

- New:** Ice Sculptures at Moody Gardens. A vast and amazing tour of towering ice scenes add a frosty addition to Festival of Lights Nov. 15 - Jan. 4
- Festival of Lights:** A beautiful trail through Moody Garden's property features over 100 lighted holiday scenes with music, Arctic Ice Slide, ice skating, holiday films, buffet and more.

**MOODY GARDENS GALVESTON ISLAND**

For More Information: **800-582-4673**  
Hotel Reservations: **888-388-8484**  
**www.moodygardens.org**

**MG 3D THEATER - RIDEFILM - 4D THEATER - HOTEL - RAINFOREST AND AQUARIUM PYRAMIDS  
PALM BEACH - DISCOVERY MUSEUM - SPA - GOLF COURSE - COLONEL PADDLEWHEELER**